GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2126
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Quality of Fast Foods
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the processed food items are being sold in violation of hygiene norms across the country and if so, the measures being adopted by the Government to monitor the quality of fast food sold by MNCs and others;
(b) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines to maintain a specific standard in the fast food sector;
(c) whether many soft drinks and tinned food companies do not strictly adhere to the code in matter of printing the contents of the product outside the container and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all the soft drink producers and tinned food companies to print the contents of caffeine, calories and other ingredients on bottles/cans/packets, etc. and if so, the measures taken to implement the decision early?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : The safety standards of different categories of food items, including processed food, have been notified under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Food Safety and Standards (Food Products and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 etc. Further, the hygienic standards such as Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), Good Manufacturing Practices and personal Hygiene, are prescribed under the Schedule IV of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011.

Every Food Business Operator in the country has to follow and comply with various norms and standards prescribed under FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily rests with State/UT Governments.

Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of all the food items are being done by the State Food Safety Officers. The samples taken are sent to the laboratories recognised by FSSAI for analysis. In cases samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder, recourse is taken to the penal provisions under Chapter IX of the Act

(c) & (d) : Mandatory labelling requirements for pre-packaged foods , including list of ingredients, nutritional information, energy value in K cal etc. is prescribed under sub-regulation 2.2.2 of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011. Requirement of declaration on the label that product contains caffeine is also prescribed in sub-regulation 2.4.5 (38) of these Regulations. Further, it has recently been made mandatory to declare amount of caffeine on the label in respect of non-alcoholic carbonated beverages.
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